

Council on Postsecondary Education  
February 4, 2002

## Executive Summary

### 1. Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?

We bring you no action items under Question 1.

But the P-16 Council has been very active. In December, it heard from Dr. Ed Ford, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, about the final report of the National Commission on the High School Senior Year. Governor Patton chaired the commission. It proposed a strategy to raise student achievement standards, increase alignment between high school curriculum and postsecondary admissions and placement requirements, and create more rigorous alternatives for high school students. These are activities we've been at work on for quite a while in Kentucky; the commission's report validates the activities of the P-16 Council.

Work continues on the American Diploma Project, with meetings of representatives of the five states participating. Kentucky seems to be on the

right track, both through the P-16 Council and the work of the Kentucky Department of Education.

The P-16 Council continues to discuss alternative routes to high school graduation, including dual credit programs, adult education, and GED options for high school students. The council is searching for effective ways to reduce the number of young people who simply disappear from P-16 education and have no viable alternatives readily available to them.

The GEAR UP project swung into high gear last November, when 4,700 seventh and eighth graders from 32 economically disadvantaged schools attended the GEAR UP Kentucky Expo at UK's Memorial Coliseum. There were fun and games, but there also were ample opportunities to discuss college and university life with representatives from institutions across the state, as well as opportunities to discuss career options with business representatives. There were celebrities, basketball players, a quiz show, and a rousing message from Governor Patton. The young people seemed to have a good time and, most important, they learned something about the opportunities open to them.

The Kentucky Virtual University continues to work closely with the Department of Adult Education and Literacy to create and deploy online resources for adult learners. The KYVU and DAEL are training adult education instructors on several of the online courses that adult students will begin to use

this spring. Since many of Kentucky's adult education centers are located in public schools, the KYVU and DAEL are working with the Kentucky Department of Education to ensure computer access to adult learners.